FBIS DAILY REPORT

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REPORTAGE ON CONTINUING DOMINICAN EMBASSY OCCUPATION

PA291834 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] At this moment, negotiations are being conducted by a telephone line from the Dominican Embassy to Narino Palace directly with President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala.

According to information obtained by Radio Cadena Nacional from Comander Uno of the M-19, person-to-person negotiations will start this afternoon upon arrival of a delegation from the Colombian Government at the Dominican Embassy. So far, there is no information as to what path the negotiations between the guerrillas and the national government will follow.

Rights Violations Key Complaint

PA291821 Paris AFP in Spanish 1738 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 29 Feb (AFP)--The violation of human rights in Colombia is one of the key [issues included] in the manifesto whose publication is demanded by leftist guerrillas occupying the Dominican Embassy here, Commander Uno, head of the guerrilla commando, announced today.

The rebel chief--whose name is still unknown--noted that the purpose of the 19 April Movement guerrilla action is to draw the world's attention to an alleged absence of democracy and the increased torturing of political prisoners in Colombia. The rebel leader denied that there are foreign elements in the commando group. "We are all Colombian peasants, students and employees," he said, without revealing the exact number. "We are more than 30," he said. He added that a government delegation is expected to arrive soon at the embassy to begin direct talks for the release of the hostages.

Leader Denies Foreign Participation

PA010230 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] The guerrilla group that on Wednesday assaulted and seized the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Bogota reiterated that the purpose of the action was to get Colombia to respect human rights.

The statement was made by Commander Uno in a telephone conversation with radio station Radio Cadena Nacional [of Colombia] in which he ruled out the presumed presence of foreign elements among the guerrillas. Specifically, Commander Uno denied that international terrorist Carlos the Jackal was participating. Commander Uno said that the dialog with the government will take palce at the Dominican mission in Bogota, which is the only place where negotiations can take place.

Commander Uno denied that women and minors were in the occupied embassy. There are some 30 persons still being held hostage in the embassy including ambassadors, officials of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the Colombian foreign ministers who were attending a social event to commemorate Dominican independence.

Intensive troop mobilization was observed around the Dominican Embassy this afternoon while the Colombian Government continues its high-level meetings to find the best solution to the situation.

However, the government continues to believe that the demands of the guerrillas, who already released the women and minors who were in the diplomatic mission, are exaggerated.

There is some optimism over the guerrillas' promise to the world that they will guarantee the lives and safety of the hostages.

Commander Uno, the leader of the group that is occupying the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, appears to be, according to the authorities, activist Carlos Jaime Bateman, age 30.

Most noteworthy is the arrival in Bogota in the past few hours of special representatives from Panama, United States, Germany and England who are considered experts in antiguerrilla warfare and all types of confrontations. In the opinion of the observers, these specialized teams could participate in an attack on the embassy to rescue the ambassadors being held hostage in case the negotiations fail.

This afternoon, Commander Uno, who heads the group that occupies the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, said that all the demands of the 19 April Movement are still standing, especially the demand of releasing all of their comrades and comrades of other groups who are in prison.

The guerrilla leader said he had a list of 311 companeros which he would turn over to the government representatives when they arrive at the Dominican Embassy. The demand of turning over the guerrillas appears the most difficult for the government to meet in that it does not have the legal power to pardon judiciary sentences.

Commander Uno warned that he will insist on the publication of a manifesto in which he plans to denounce Colombia to world public opinion, saying that there is neither democracy nor liberty, that prisons are filled with political prisoners and that human rights are not respected.

Commander Uno said that the group occupying the embassy will remain there 1 month if necessary. He said they are ready for anything in order to obtain from the government satisfaction for their demands of releasing 311 guerrillas and handing over $50 million. The guerrillas have automatic rifles, submachineguns and hand grenades.

The last five women released by the group in the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, including Costa Rican Ambassador Maria Elena Chassoul, said they had been well-treated. However, other sources said that some of the ambassadors are forced to stand in the doorways of the building to prevent security forces from storming it.

Interview With Guerrilla Leader

PY022340 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Mar 80 p 6 PY

[29 February telephone interview by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO correspondent Mario Lucio Franklin in Sao Paulo with Commander Uno, M-19 leader, at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota]

[Excerpts] [Question] I would like to speak with "Commander Uno." I am from the newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO.

[Answer] This is the commander. What do you want?

[Question] How are the negotiations developing?

[Answer] We are awaiting a government commission which is supposed to come to the embassy today. I expect to have an answer from Turbay today because former Foreign Minister Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa was only a preliminary mediator. His mission is over now and it is very difficult to forecast what Turbay's reaction is going to be in a situation like this. The only thing we know is that Turbay is the representative of the most reactionary sectors of the country: the church, the military, the Conservative Party and the most fascist faction of the Liberal Party.

[Question] How is the Brazilian ambassador? What is his political role in this operation carried out by the M-19?

[Answer] Ambassador Geraldo Eulalio is fine. He is an important trump card, perhaps the best we have. He is a very valuable hostage. For this reason he will be one of the last to be released if Turbay orders the freedom of the 331 political prisoners there are in the country.

[Question] Is this attitude of the M-19 toward the ambassador the consequence of Brazilian-Colombian bilateral relations or of Brazil's domestic policy?

[Answer] No, no. He is the ambassador of a great country, but everything that is taking place is merely the result of the political violence prevailing in Colombia. Only 5 percent of Colombia's population elected Julio Cesar Turbay as president of the nation, and only 20 percent of the people entitled to vote voted for Turbay. This means that Turbay represents only 6 percent of all Colombians.

[Question] How many persons are there inside the embassy including hostages and guerrillas? Could you tell us how they are at this point? Is there food rationing?

[Answer] At this point, we have 45 persons here, counting our people and the hostages together. The hostages sleep in different rooms. We have divided them in groups but there are not enough beds for everyone. Some sleep on the floor. As far as food is concerned, we are rationing it. But this should not last too long because the Red Cross will bring in supplies.

[Question] Are the hostages weakening due to lack of food?

[Answer] Obviously some of them are bound to feel this lack of food.

[Question] Is the Brazilian ambassador among these?

[Answer] No, Ambassador Geraldo Eulalio is fine. Some of the diplomats have grown weak, but we are keeping things under control. We have a doctor in our group.

[Question] Who are these diplomats? Could you tell us their names?

[Answer] No, I cannot.

Demands May Change

PA291845 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1818 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (LATIN)--The leftist guerrillas who have occupied the Dominican Embassy in Bogota today hinted that they may change their demands for the release of the almost 50 diplomats being held hostage by them.

In a telephone conversation with a newsman of the morning newspaper EL ESPECTADOR, the self-styled "Commander Uno"--who apparently led the operation--said that "some of the points may be changed through dialog. However, the main one is the release of the political prisoners."

The guerrillas have demanded the immediate release of 311 political prisoners, a $50-million ransom, the publication of a political manifesto, the withdrawal of troops from the embassy's vicinity and a dialog with the government.

He said he trusted an agreement would be reached. "We have already talked with other governments which are prepared to demand a fast dialog." "We have [word indistinct] tirelessly to obtain a dialog with the government but have noticed some intransigence and stubbornness on their part," the commander said.

The guerrilla expressed gratitude for Panama's offer of asylum. [passage indistinct]

Government Communique No 8

PA291843 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1822 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Communique No 8 issued by the Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency, read by Secretary Marta Montoya--live]

[Text] The Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency states that at 1330 hours, Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas advised the guerrillas occupying the Dominican Embassy, through the Mexican ambassador, of the terms established by the government to initiate the dialog referred to in previous communiques issued by this secretariat. Bogota, 29 February 1980.

President Grateful for Support

PA292124 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 2105 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Presidential Communique No 1 issued in Bogota on 29 February; read by announcer]

[Text] The president of the republic thanks former Presidents Alberto Lleras Camargo and Misael Pastrana Borrero, the former members of the military government junta and the political party heads--Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, Victor Mosquera Chaux and his companions on the National Liberal Directorate, Felio Andrade and his fellow directorate members, Guillermo Angulo Gomez and his directorate members--the congressional officials and the representatives of various associations and political directorates in the departments, for their support and encouragement for the government following the subversive attack on the Dominican Embassy.

Diplomatic Officials To Meet

PA292259 Paris AFP in Spanish 2151 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (AFP)--Government sources have told AFP that officials of the 20 diplomatic missions whose ambassadors continue to be held hostage by a guerrilla cell at the Dominican Embassy here will meet with Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe to discuss the situation.

Among the delegates are Costa Rican Ambassador Maria Elena Chassoul, who was released from the Dominican Embassy along with 15 other women who are the wives of diplomats.

On the other hand, a negotiating committee made up of the kidnapers and the ambassadors of the United States and Mexico today proposed the establishment of a committee including the USSR, Ecuador, Belgium and Argentina to help resolve the crisis that is based on the guerrillas' demand for the release of Colombian political prisoners and $50 million.

This committee would contact the government and the insurgents and seek a way to meet with the guerrillas to arrive at an agreement.

Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan, one of the hostages, is expected to make a statement in the next few hours.

Minister Vargas, Diplomats Meet

PA011404 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0808 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[By George Rodriguez Oteiza--all quotation marks as received]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 1 Mar (LATIN)--The negotiations between the government representatives and the 19 April Movement (M-19) guerrillas will begin today at 0700 (1200 GMT), diplomatic sources told this news agency.

Meanwhile, the main events that took place yesterday in connection with the occupation of the embassy were the release in the morning of five women hostages and a meeting between diplomats of the countries involved in the incident and Colombian Foreign Affairs Minister Diego Uribe Vargas.

After the meeting, which lasted over 1 hour, Venezuelan "roving" Ambassador Numa Quevedo told the press that, in his opinion, "the meeting is very positive," with that adjective very "positive."

Regarding the positions of the Colombian Government and the M-19, the government envoy and former Venezuelan ambassador to Colombia said that "there is a reciprocal inclination toward dialog."

"There has been reciprocity in the dialog for a settlement. Naturally, it is assumed that the presidency will officially announce the opening of the bilateral negotiations.

Costa Rican Ambassador Maria Elena Chassoul said after participating in the meeting with Uribe that the guerrillas are treating the hostages well, "very well, with the understandable tensions of the moment."

"They are very disciplined people. They can be kind and yet very harsh during difficult moments," the diplomat added. Chassoul was released yesterday morning together with four other women who were among the hostages at the embassy.

The women left the embassy at 0905 [1405 GMT] in a group and boarded four diplomatic vehicles in front of the embassy with prior authorization from the M-19 members.

According to Chassoul, it was determined that Salvadoran Ambassador Mauricio Garcia Prieto is not among the hostages.

The ambassadress said that the captive ambassadors are the U.S., Israeli, Dominican, Brazilian, Venezuelan, Mexican, Uruguayan, Austrian, Egyptian, Guatemalan, Haitian and Swiss ambassadors and the apostolic nuncio. The Paraguayan and Bolivian charge d'affaires are also among the hostages.

Meanwhile, at 1100 [1600 GMT] yesterday, the guerrillas forced one of the hostages to raise the M-19's blue, white and red flag for the second consecutive day.

An unidentified diplomat accompanied by two youths raised the flag, which now hangs together with the Dominican and Colombian flags over the entrance to the diplomatic mission.

Interview With Mediator

PY010153 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 29 Feb p 13 PY

[Telephone interview with former Colombian Foreign Minister Alfredo Vazquez Carrizosa at his residence in Bogota by JORNAL DO BRASIL correspondent Pepe Fajardo from JORNAL's Sao Paulo office at 2155 GMT on 28 February]

[Excerpt] [Question] What is the status of the talks between the guerrillas and the government in which you have been mediating?

[Answer] I am no longer the mediator. I accomplished my mission. The problem is now in the hands of the Colombian Government. I talked with the four ambassadors representing the hostages, that is, the Mexican, U.S., Venezuelan, and Holy See ambassadors.

[Question] Did the guerrillas attend the talks?

[Answer] Yes. There were three, Commander Uno being one of them.

[Question] Were the three guerrillas masked?

[Answer] Only on of them was, while the other two wore no masks.

[Question] Was Commander Uno the one with a mask?

[Answer] No, he wore no mask.

[Question] Can you describe him?

[Answer] He is a 30-year-old, strong and educated young man.

[Question] Were there any women?

[Answer] Yes, one.

[Question] Was she masked?

[Answer] No, she wore no mask.

[Question] Was she young?

[Answer] No so young.

[Question] What is your opinion of them?

[Answer] They are very well-trained politically ard gave me the impression that they know very well what they want.

[Question] What weapons did they carry?

[Answer] All they had were short machineguns.

[Question] You demanded that Dr Ernesto Martinez Capella go with you to the embassy. Why?

[Answer] Because he is a doctor, while I am not one. I wanted to know about the real situation of the wounded and about their needs.

Buildings Near Embassy Evacuated

PA010008 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2341 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (EFE)--Residents of the buildings close to the Dominican Embassy here were evacuated today from the area.

The M-19 members who seized the embassy on Wednesday and are holding 14 ambassadors and other officials as hostages permitted the departure of these families, which for the past 3 days have not had food supplies. The guerrillas were told about the authorities' concern over the fate of these people and after holding several lengthy dialogs, an agreement was reached. In the past few hours, Red Cross members once again brought food and drinks to the building. A tense atmosphere prevails near the embassy, while dozens of newsmen from various countries keep watch and await a solution to the conflict.

M-19 Threatens Executions

PA010230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0155 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (EFE)--The 19 April Movement (M-19) has threatened to execute "one by one" its hostages in the Dominican Embassy if the Colombian Government does not agree to dialog before 2200 today [0300 GMT Saturday].

The ultimatum was given in a communique released to the press by the M-19, which has been holding 14 ambassadors and an undetermined number of persons since Wednesday. The contents of the communique were confirmed to EFE by a spokesman of the guerrilla group.

Government Agrees to Talk

PA010232 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0203 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (EFE)--After the ultimatum given by the M-19, the Colombian Government announced at 2045 [0145 GMT Saturday] that it would talk with the guerrillas occupying the Dominican Republic Embassy in Bogota.

The presidential press secretariat added that negotiators from the two sides could begin talks in a van parked in front of the embassy. The M-19 had announced shortly before that it would execute its hostages, "one by one," including the 14 ambassadors, if the government did not agree to negotiations before 0300 GMT.

29 Feb Communique on Dialog

PA010155 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0134 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Communique No 9 issued by the Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency--read by announcer]

[Text] The national government, again showing its interest in resolving the situation of the diplomatic hostages in the Dominican Embassy, has yielded to the proposal of the ambassadors that the dialog begin outside the embassy, in a vehicle that will be located next to the curb on 30th Avenue so that it may be observed from the occupied mission.

Bogota, 29 February 1980.

M-19 Issues Communique

PA010305 Paris AFP in Spanish 0228 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (AFP)--The leftist 19 April Movement (M-19) will be responsible for the lives of the hostages in the Dominican Embassy as long as there is no military provocation, a clandestine communique issued here tonight stated.

The bulletin, sent in an envelope to the Radio Cadena Nacional station and other news media, is 4 and 1/2 pages long and is signed by Dr Carlos Toledo Plata and [name indistinct] Cayon, the top leaders of the guerrilla organization. The bulletin written in black ink carries the already known symbol of the M-19: a hand holding a rifle. It contains a 5-point declaration under the heading: operation freedom and democracy.

The first point recounts the history of the occupation of the Dominican Embassy which was carried out in memory of Companero Marcos Zambrano, the name of the guerrilla who allegedly died some days ago in Cali after he was arrested by the army. In the second point, which is divided into three paragraphs, the M-19 denounces the current Colombian Government for using torture, while it says it is democratic. It also demands the release of the prisoners accused of subversion and reiterates the people's inalienable right to freedom.

The following point states: This commando promises to be responsible for the lives and to respect the rank of the diplomats present here. We make General Camacho Leyva [national defense minister] and Colonel Turbay Ayala [an ironic reference to the Colombian president] responsible for any provocation that might lead to a fatal outcome. [passage indistinct]

Guerrillas Begin Meeting

PA010402 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0307 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (EFE)--The M-19 guerrillas who invaded the Dominican Republic Embassy in this city agreed tonight to a dialog with the Colombian Government, while an urban commando attacked a sentry at a military base in Bogota.

The government agreed to a dialog with the guerrillas after they gave the government an ultimatum in which the guerrillas said they would execute the hostages "one by one," including the 14 ambassadors. One of the guerrillas in command of the occupation of the Dominican Embassy in this capital said they would accept the dialog proposed by the Colombian Government and that it should take place in a van in front of the embassy.

Twenty-five minutes before 2200 [0300 GMT] one of the ambassadors, as yet unidentified among the hostages held at the embassy, walked to the meeting place with two, also unidentified persons, presumably guerrillas. The meeting is being held some 150 meters from the embassy, occupied by the M-19 since Wednesday, where over 30 persons are being held hostage.

Meanwhile, a military intelligence [B-2] source informed EFE by telephone that an alleged urban guerrilla command fired on a sentry at the Rincon Quinones military base in northern Bogota.

Government Meeting With M-19 Postponed

PA010608 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0528 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (EFE)--A meeting slated for 0300 GMT on Saturday between Colombian Government representatives and the M-19 guerrillas occupying the Dominican Embassy in this capital has not been held for undisclosed reasons.

After 60 minutes, this agency telephoned one of the leaders of the guerrilla group holding 14 ambassadors from several countries hostages since Wednesday to learn the reason for the postponement of the dialog. The government and the guerrillas were supposed to hold a meeting at 2200 local time inside a van parked 150 meters from the embassy occupied by the guerrillas. It has been learned that a commission composed of at least two officials and a second commission composed of one of the ambassadors held hostage and very possibly one of the guerrillas headed for the place agreed for the meeting.

After waiting for a long time and confirming that the interview was not being held, this agency telephoned one of the guerrilla leaders inside the embassy. The guerrilla leader was reticent and tried to avoid the conversation, in turn calling an "alleged superior." This alleged superior, who did not identify himself, said that the high command directing the occupation had met in a room to study the possibility of attending the meeting. The meeting, unexpectedly postponed today, may be held tomorrow, the guerrilla announced.

Shooting was heard near the hour slated for the dialog, but its cause has not been officially explained. "We have not yet determined who will represent us if we do meet with the Colombian Government," he added.

The guerrilla interviewed by this agency either did not know or chose not to provide any details about the possible negotiations already conducted by the government and his group. He claimed not to know anything about the possibility that Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez might serve as an intermediary. He neither confirmed nor denied that one of the ambassadors held hostage might represent the group held captive by the M-19.

The guerrilla refused to comment on the "special groups" that have arrived in Bogota from several countries, whom observers believe to be antiguerrilla agents.

The guerrilla leader also confirmed that M-19 members had attacked a headquarters in Usaquen, north of Bogota tonight. On 1 January 1979, M-19 commandos dug a tunnel and seized 5,000 army weapons from this place.

Hostages Seek USSR Arbitration

OW011153 Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT 1 Mar 80 OW

[Excerpts] Bogota, March 1 (AFP)--Colombian Government moves to open negotiations with leftwing guerrillas holding 30 hostages, including 19 ambassadors, inside the Dominican Embassy since Wednesday were imminent today, observers here said.

Meanwhile, informed sources said a negotiating team recruited from among the hostages themselves, including the ambassadors of the United States and Mexico, was tentatively holding itself in readiness to serve as an intermediary in talks between their captors and the Colombian Government.

The team was asking for the Soviet Union, Belgium, Ecuador, and Argentina to form an international committee to arbitrate on the commando's terms for freeing the hostages, which include a ransom of 50 million dollars and a safe passage out of the country, the sources said.

Antiguerrilla Forces Reportedly Arriving

PA012018 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpt] The media have reported that antiguerrilla forces are arriving constantly in Colombia from the FRG, Great Britain and the United States. It was reported that the U.S. Embassy has a special command in charge of analyzing the events at the Dominican Embassy, but Washington will not participate in the negotiations. It was added that the United States has decided to install lethal weapons in all its embassies in Latin America.

Dead Guerrilla's Identity Unknown

PA011522 Paris AFP in Spanish 1415 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 1 Mar (AFP)--The Colombian security organizations today revealed that the guerrilla killed during the occupation of the Dominican Embassy on Wednesday could be a foreigner not registered in Colombia, probably from the southern part of the continent.

Doubt emerged when it was confirmed that the guerrilla's identification document, which listed him as Jose Raul Gomez Feo, did not correspond with the body delivered to the Red Cross by the 19 April Movement [M-19]. The security organizations compared the fingerprints of the cadaver with the identification card and those being held by the National Registry Office for Gomez Feo and they did not match. After this discovery was made, the authorities tried to find the fingerprints of the cadaver in the files but could not. That is when the possibility arose that the guerrilla is a foreigner who is not registered in the country.

This theory has increased the belief that there are individuals infiltrated in the M-19 who were members of the Montoneros and the Tupamaros.

However, the true Gomez Feo has not appeared. He has been urged to report to the security organizations but it has been said that he is a teacher who works in a remote town in the eastern plains, close to the jungle.

Guerrillas Threaten Consulate Attacks

PA011526 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1449 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Barranquilla, Colombia, 1 Mar (EFE)--The 19 April Movement [M-19] guerrilla group is capable of taking reprisals nationwide against the consulates that are operating in Colombia if the government takes any action against the guerrillas who are occupying the Dominican Embassy in Bogota.

A telephone statement to this effect was made to a radio station by a person who identified himself as a member of the M-19. According to the caller, a national-level meeting was held by the members of the guerrilla group in the past few hours and the names of several consuls were chosen for possible attack if reprisals are taken against the occupiers of the embassy.

The caller told the radio station that in the City of Barranquilla, in the northern part of the country, there a "a large number" of members of the guerrilla organization, but he did not give an exact figure. "Everything is ready on a nationwide level. Everything has been discussed. Our comrades came from various cities on Thursday and the meeting was held that night," the alleged M-19 member said.

An attack was launched at the Argentine Consulate 2 days ago, causing property damage but no casualties. In Bogota, an M-19 guerrilla cell is holding 14 diplomats and other officials hostage after having stormed the Dominican Embassy on Wednesday.

Each Occupier Has Passport, $10,000

PA011653 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1541 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[By Jorge Matiz]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 1 Mar (LATIN)--Three days after the occupation of the Dominican Embassy here by guerrillas of the 19 April Movement, the Colombian Government was remaining very quiet about the status of the negotiations for the release of the hostages who are still being kept there.

The Bogota newspaper EL TIEMPO reported today that the guerrillas entered the embassy in two groups and that not all of them were dressed as athletes. It added that, according to statements by some of the hostages who were released, but who the paper did not identify, four guerrillas had entered the embassy elegantly dressed for the reception. "Two men and women were at the reception when the guerrillas arrived. They immediately pulled their weapons out and placed themselves in the back [of the room]," the report stated. The newspaper added that the persons who were elegantly dressed included a woman doctor who is in charge of periodically checking the health of the hostages and the guerrillas. This woman is said to have "hit" an ambassador when he violently threw the body of a dead guerrilla to one side.

According to this report, each guerrilla has a passport and $10,000.

Special Ambassador Granted Access

PA011651 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1619 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 1 Mar (EFE)--The Dominican foreign minister announced here today that he had reached a telephone agreement with Commander Uno, chief of the group of occupiers at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota to give a special ambassador free access to the occupied embassy.

Dr Emilio Ludovinco Fernandez said that Commander Uno agreed to a request he made in this regard as he was talking with Dominican Ambassador Diogenes Mallol Burgos. He said that Antonio Garcia Vazquez, Dominican ambassador to Peru, who has been sent to Bogota with special powers, has been accepted by the occupiers as an official negotiator.

The agreement was reached after it was reported here that Presidents Antonio Guzman of the Dominican Republic and Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala of Colombia will discuss the difficult situation by phone.

Prisoner Release 'Not Negotiable'

PA012108 Paris AFP in Spanish 1652 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Caracas, 1 Mar (AFP)--The enigmatic Commander Uno, who heads the leftist guerrilla group holding 18 ambassadors here, told EL DIARIO DE CARACAS that except for the release of political prisoners, all of the group's other demands are negotiable.

The M-19 guerrillas are asking for the release of 311 of their companions, whose trial was suspended by the Colombian military authorities following the takeover of the Dominican Embassy. The M-19 is also demanding a ransom of $50 million and the publication of a manifesto, but these are negotiable, Commander Uno said.

He told EL DIARIO DE CARACAS: The amount of the ransom, the deadlines and the transportation--all of this is negotiable. Uno also said the M-19 would accept the mediation of Pope John Paul II. We respect his moral authority, and his intervention can only be beneficial, he added. The guerrilla commander said the embassy situation is under control inside and out.

On another subject, he said the four ambassadors of socialist countries luckily escaped being caught at the embassy. He laughed when newsmen told him that it was being said in Caracas that the guerrillas had tipped them off not to go to the reception. We would like to have them here confined with us--that way we could ask for more money, Commander Uno said.

Venezuelan Ambassador Virgilio Lovera, one of the captive ambassadors, told EL DIARIO DE CARACAS that Commander Uno--who personally refuted reports that he was terrorist Carlos Illich Ramirez--said he was a university professor of humanities which have their roots in the Colombian people. Ambassador Lovera also revealed that a tripartite commission will negotiate the guerrillas' demands. This commission will be formed by the U.S., Brazilian and Venezuelan ambassadors and the apostolic nuncio on behalf of the captive ambassadors; by Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas and an unspecified number of advisers on behalf of the Colombian Government, and by Commander Uno and three of his top deputies on behalf of the guerrillas. The Venezuelan ambassador stressed the good treatment they were receiving from the guerrillas, saying this attitude has fostered an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding.

An example of this near-familiarity occurred when newsman asked the ambassador about his relationship with Commander Uno. We get along very well, he replied. As a matter of fact, he's standing right in front of me. May I speak to him? the newsman said. Why of course--commander, you've got a telephone call, the ambassador said.

Government Communique on Red Cross

PA011910 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Report from Narino Palace]

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has just resumed the release of official communiques regarding developments at the Dominican Embassy. The last one was issued last night at 2035.

The first communique issued today, which has just been released, refers to the Colombian Red Cross. It says:

Yesterday afternoon, 29 February 1980, a member of the national Red Cross rescue team and a volunteer of the same organization delivered to the Dominican Embassy the personal effects of the diplomats who have been held there since Wednesday, 27 February. There will be a similar operation today involving personal effects which have been taken to the Colombian Red Cross by relatives of the diplomats. It is worth recalling here the universal clauses regulating Red Cross actions worldwide which pertain to the society of each country.

The communique adds that at this moment, because of the solidarity of many volunteers acting jointly as Red Cross members without any distinctions, the postulates of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality proclaimed by the Red Cross since its creation have once more been evidenced through the continued rendering of emergency services and mediation which have made it a truly helpful entity in internal or international conflicts for almost a century.

This is the end of the communique, which has just been released at the Press and Information Office of the Presidency of the Republic.

USSR Envoy Reportedly on Commission

PA011932 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1858 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota, 1 Mar (LATIN)--A news report regarding the alleged creation of a mediating commission made up of diplomats who were not involved in the Dominican Embassy kidnaping has not been confirmed. The news report claims that the commission is made up of five persons, among them reportedly, the Soviet ambassador.

Talks May Begin in Red Cross Vehicle

PA011914 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1853 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 1 Mar (LATIN)--The negotiations between representatives of the Colombian Government and the guerrillas who are holding diplomats hostage in the Dominican Embassy will begin tomorrow in a Red Cross vehicle, a diplomatic source has announced.

Guerrilla: Talks To Begin 1400 GMT, 2 March

PA020348 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2341 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[By George Rodriguez Oteiza]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 1 Mar (LATIN)--The negotiations between representatives of the Colombian Government and the guerrillas who have occupied the Dominican Embassy for more than 74 hours will begin tomorrow at 0900 [1400 GMT], "Commander Uno," the alleged leader of the guerrillas, told LATIN this afternoon. In a telephone conversation with this correspondent, the chief of the 19 April Movement [M-19] guerrillas who are holding almost 40 hostages in the embassy said the time for the beginning of talks between the two parties was announced to Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas through Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan, one of the hostages.

Despite the tense waiting, the van where the negotiations should have begun did not arrive this morning near the embassy as had been announced.

After announcing the new time for beginning the talks to find a solution to the occupation, Commander Uno expressed hope that the time will not be changed once again. Asked about the truth of reports that a guerrilla who identified herself as "Commander Five" had told two Bogota radio stations that two ambassadors were chosen to be executed yesterday at 2200 [0300 GMT] if the negotiations did not begin immediately, the guerrilla leader said: "That is totally false. It seems the government is using two types of information: a somewhat objective information on the situation for the local news media and it is distorting reality for the foreign news media to create ill will against the movement."

Commander Uno said that "in a humanitarian gesture to show the world that we want to hold a dialog, we released 18 hostages--10 women along with two wounded persons and an honorary consul, and then the five other women--once the government accepted our request to help a wounded comrade." "As a result of this action, the government was left completely vulnerable and they then called for a meeting today at 0900." The meeting was not held.

Questioned about the condition of the guerrilla wounded during the shooting at the beginning of the occupation, Commander Uno said she is showing a "remarkable recovery." He added that the two neurologists who treated her on Thursday "played an important role" in the young woman's recovery. Asked about the current situation inside the Dominican Embassy, Commander Uno said "the situation is militarily under control." "Everyone is calm," he added. "Our people are in combat positions."

Questioned about his view on what he described as the "initial phase of the dialog," he expressed his hope that it will be "rapid, honest and responsible." "We are full of optimism due to the pressure of the peoples of the world who support us," he added. "We are firm, willing to win or die," he warned.

Head Guerrilla Reportedly Identified

PA012033 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1901 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[By Libardo Aguirre Saenz]

[Excerpt] Bogota, 1 Mar (EFE)--The military intelligence service today identified the man calling himself Commander Uno inside the occupied Dominican Embassy in Bogota as Jaime Bateman Cayo.

The authorities became more convinced of this at noon today after an analysis of the guerrilla chief's voice and of his manner of speaking, which is shy and quiet, but at the same time very shrewd, receptive and intelligent.

According to unofficial sources, the person is almost certainly Bateman, who also uses the pseudonyms Pablo Garcia and Fernando Jaramillo.

Costa Rican Diplomats 'To Be Released'

PA012223 Paris AFP in Spanish 2143 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 1 Mar (AFP)--Costa Rican Minister Counsellor Rolando Blanco, one of the hostages at the Dominican Republic Embassy, will be released Sunday following the arrest in San Jose of three members of the 19 April Movement [M-19], reliable sources reported today. An M-19 group is holding 19 diplomats in the embassy. The M-19 members arrested in San Jose traveled to Costa Rica as exiles some months ago after they took asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy in Bogota. According to the sources, the arrested M-19 members in San Jose were able to speak on the telephone with their comrades in the embassy here.

Envoy Denies Arrest of M-19 Members

PA021455 Paris AFP in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (AFP)--Johnny Chassoul Monge, Costa Rican ambassador on a special mission in Colombia, denied reports here today about the arrest of three guerrillas of the 19 April Movement [M-19] in his country.

Chassoul, who was sent to Bogota by President Rodrigo Carazo to arrange the release of Costa Rican Ambassador Maria Helena Chassoul and Counsellor Rodrigo Blanco, who were taken hostage by the M-19 at the Dominican Embassy, told AFP that the M-19 guerrillas are not under arrest.

He explained that the M-19 members who are in asylum in Costa Rica--brothers Fabio, Jose and Jorge Monje Benavides--are completely free in his country. They are, however, subject to the orders of the security corps to which they have to report. It is not true they are under arrest. Some of them even have jobs and I met with them Thursday, the day I traveled to Colombia, the Costa Rican diplomat told AFP this morning.

The Monje Benavides brothers have been well-treated, both during the 22 days they stayed in the embassy in Bogota and afterward in Costa Rica, he added. They told me they did not know who the members of the guerrilla group were that occupied the Dominican Embassy and that they have heard nothing about the M-19 since they took asylum.

According to reports received in Bogota, the Costa Rican authorities arrested the Monje brothers and were thinking of exchanging them for the counsellor of the embassy in Bogota, Rolando Blanco Solis, who is one of the hostages at the Dominican Embassy here. Chassoul said: It is not true my mission ended after the release of my sister, Ambassador Maria Helan Chassoul. It will end only after Doctor Blanco Solis has been released.

No New Communique

PA020122 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[By Oscar Dominguez]

[Excerpt] A few minutes ago Maria Montaya, the secretary of information of the presidency, told newsmen here at Narino Palace that no new Communique will be issued regarding the occupation of the Dominican Embassy. President Turbay Ayala worked in his offices in Narino Palace for most of the day but around 1600 he left for San Carlos Palace where the chief of state has his private residence. Several ministers visited him there in the afternoon. There was no additional information on this.

One Dominican Among Occupiers

PA020148 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0034 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 1 Mar (LATIN)--Libio Tiborcio Sadino, a 35-year-old Dominican, is one of the leftist guerrillas who took over the Dominican Embassy, military sources revealed here today. Sadino, who was born in Hato Mayor, Dominican Republic, in 1945, was employed in the Dominican Embassy in Bogota until 1976, when he was fired following an incident in which he was accused of firing shots at the ambassador and the Dominican foreign minister, who was visiting Colombia.

The military source said that Sadino has an international record as a terrorist and that he was deported from Mexico because of his subversive activities. In 1974 he was arrested in Arequipa, Peru, following a guerrilla attack. After he was deported from Peru he came to Colombia where he worked in the Dominican Embassy until 1976. The same source said that the Colombian intelligence services are diligently trying to discover the identity of the head of the group, who calls himself Commander Uno. The source also reiterated that Jaime Bateman, one of the top leaders of the M-19, is not in the group in the Dominican Embassy.

Diplomatic Corps Issues Communique

PA020358 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0117 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 1 Mar (EFE)--The diplomatic corps today acknowledged its appreciation for the efforts the Colombian Government is making to solve the dramatic situation at the Dominican Embassy which has been occupied without any physical harm to the hostages. The announcement was made in a communique issued by the diplomatic corps after they met at the apostolic nunciature and after their meeting with Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas.

According to the communique the ambassadors "have analyzed the situation and express their concern over this act of violence which threatens the lives of human beings and represents a total disregard of the most basic principles of international law." The ambassadors also express their "heartfelt solidarity and concern" over the fate of all the diplomats, who for the past 3 days have been held hostages of the 19 April Movement [M-19] at the Dominican Embassy.

The diplomatic corps also expresses in the communique the need for "peaceful efforts to obtain the ambassadors' immediate freedom" and has offered to cooperate in "this priority objective" by appointing an ambassadors' liaison commission.

Diplomatic Commission Formed

PA021327 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1012 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 2 Mar (LATIN)--Commander Uno has told this agency that the negotiations between representatives of the Colombian Government and the guerrillas who occupied the Dominican Embassy almost 96 hours ago will start this morning at 0900 [1400 GMT].

Diplomatic sources told this agency that meanwhile, a liaison commission was created yesterday among the countries affected by the embassy occupation and the Colombian Government. This commission is made up of three ambassadors. The sources noted that the group will not be engaged in negotiations of any kind although it will hold talks with the Colombian Government and will offer advice if necessary. The commission is made up of: Soviet Ambassador Leonid Romanov, Swiss Ambassador Hugo Schwalp and Argentine Ambassador Raul Medina Munoz.

Aircraft Ready for Guerrillas

PA021350 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota--Colombia is ready to give the leftist guerrillas an aircraft and safe-conducts to leave the country together with the almost 40 hostages they are keeping at the Embassy of the Dominican Republic, a high-ranking government official said today.

Meanwhile, one of the guerrillas hinted during a telephone conversation that they may go to Venezuela. Panama has offered political asylum to the guerrillas in an effort to settle the crisis.

Paraguayan Consul Recovering

PA021458 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1406 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota, 2 Mar (EFE)--Rafael Velez, honorary consul of Paraguay who was wounded during the attack carried out by guerrillas of the 19 April Movement against the Dominican Embassy on Wednesday, is out of danger. This was reported by the doctors at the military hospital where Velez was admitted.

Velez was one of the diplomats held hostage by the guerrillas who are occupying the embassy. He was released on Thursday because of his wound. The diplomat is a Colombian who represents the Paraguayan Government here as honorary consul. He was shot in the left shoulder during the attack.

Five Ambulances Requested

PA021427 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1411 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (LATIN)--According to a radio communication with military authorities, the guerrillas who are occupying the Dominican Embassy here requested five ambulances today.

The members of the 19 April Movement who requested the ambulances gave no details.

Meanwhile, the military forces surrounding the embassy were reinforced by a large detachment of soldiers this morning, while the arrival of the Red Cross station wagon in which negotiations between the government and the guerrillas are to start was expected. The negotiations are aimed at obtaining the release of some 40 persons.

Hostages Situated Near Exits

PA021534 Paris AFP in Spanish 1426 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 2 Mar (AFP)--Costa Rican Ambassador Maria Helena Chassoul Monge has said here that she left the Dominican Embassy, which has been occupied by a 19 April Movement (M-19) commando group since Wednesday, on orders from President Rodrigo Carazo.

While I was still a hostage I received three telephone calls from President Carazo, who ordered me to leave as soon as I could because our country has been and is a peaceful country which rejects this type of violence, she stated.

Chassoul was released by the M-19 guerrillas Friday morning together with four other women and has been making efforts since then to work out a quick and peaceful solution to the crisis.

In a conversation with AFP, Chassoul said the guerrillas are not eating the food supplied to them by the Red Cross, but have been using the food at the embassy, which is well-stocked. She disclosed that the captive ambassadors are situated near the windows and doors of the residence. She stated that if anyone shoots from the outside or tries to storm the embassy there will be a massacre. She said the terrorists have put the Mexican, Egyptian and Israeli ambassadors behind a door which leads to the third floor of the embassy, where there is a helicopter pad. The safety of the ambassadors is constantly at risk.

Now recovered from the shock she suffered during the takeover, Ambassador Chassoul urged newsmen, the security corps and curiosity seekers in front of the embassy not to get near it because there could be a massacre. She said that although the terrorists are normally kind, and even amiable, they are rude when they feel they are in danger and threaten to blow up the embassy located in a residential district in northern Bogota.

When someone moves in the streets there is panic, even terror, among the diplomats at the embassy. Everyone expects the worst, she said, adding that she will do everything in her power to help the captive ambassadors regain their freedom.

2 March Negotiations Begin

PA021448 Paris AFP in Spanish 1438 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (AFP)--The negotiations between the Colombian Government and the guerrillas of the 19 April Movement who are keeping several ambassadors hostage at the Dominican Embassy here started at 1430 GMT in a van parked in front of the embassy.

The deliberations are being observed from a distance by newsmen, army and police forces and the guerrillas themselves who have been occupying the embassy since Wednesday to demand the release of political prisoners and a $50-million ransom.

Four Involved in Talks

PA021516 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1451 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (EFE)--At 1422 GMT four negotiators--two government officials, one ambassador and one guerrilla--started the talks agreed to by the Colombian president and the guerrilla group occupying the Dominican Embassy here.

The government-guerrilla talks are being held inside a van parked a few meters from the diplomatic mission.

According to reports confirmed by this news agency, Ramiro Zambrano and Camilo Jimenez, two officials of the International Protocol Department, are participating in the talks on behalf of the government. Also participating are Ricardo Galan, Mexican ambassador in Bogota, and a guerrilla who has not been identified because he is wearing a white hood. The four men sat inside the vehicle.

The 19 April Movement took over the embassy on Wednesday and is keeping 14 ambassadors hostage.

Negotiations End After 100 Minutes

PA021620 Paris AFP in Spanish 1607 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (AFP)--An initial dialog among government delegates, the Mexican ambassador and leftist guerrillas, aimed at reaching at an agreement for the release of 20 diplomats, ended here today after 100 minutes of talks inside a van. A man and a woman, members of the 19 April Movement, and Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan, returned to the Dominican Embassy while the government officials left for the government palace.

Five Released Hostages Questioned

PA030015 Paris AFP in Spanish 2234 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (AFP)--The five hostages authorized today to leave the Dominican Embassy, which is occupied by terrorists, are now under intense interrogation by the military secret services, it was learned here this afternoon.

Once outside the embassy, the five men were quickly taken to the military institutes brigade installations, where they have remained since noon.

It has also been learned that Foreign Ministry Protocol Chief Roberto Bermudez, contrary to what was originally announced, is still being held hostage by the M-19. The swiftness with which the military services took charge of the released hostages created some confusion among newsmen.

It has now been learned that those released today from the embassy include Dr Gustavo Caicedo, three kitchen aides and a photographer named Guzman. The photographer usually reports on diplomatic activities in Bogota and somewhat resembles Bermudez, which explains the mistake.

Officials Balk at M-19 Demands

PA021956 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1820 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[By Francisco Osaba]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 2 Mar (EFE)--The Colombian Government, which met with the 19 April Movement (M-19) today to determine the situation of the hostages at the Dominican Embassy, offered the guerrillas a plane to take them out of the country. However, the government warned that it will not deliver the political prisoners or the $50 million the guerrillas have demanded.

Although this report was not fully confirmed, Foreign Ministry sources noted that in meetings held at the Council of Ministers level--presided over by President Turbay Ayala--the general agreement was that the government cannot in any way yield to the pressures of the guerrillas. The guerrillas' demand for the release of 311 political prisoners cannot be met because the prisoners have already been tried and sentenced and releasing them would violate the Constitution.

However, observers and constitutional experts today suggested that a pardon is being contemplated and that one could be decreed in order to solve the existing problem, although a pardon has not been granted in Colombia for more than 20 years.

EFE was also able to learn that U.S. experts in antiguerrilla tactics were present as observers near the place where the negotiations were held this morning. Approximately 20 experts arrived in Bogota on Thursday headed by the deputy chief of the U.S. anti-terrorist office directly under the Department of State. One of the most important hostages is U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio. These "observers" would perhaps be willing to act "on their own" in case all negotiations with the guerrillas fail.

Communique No 10 on Talks

PA021950 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1916 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Communique No 10 issued by the Information and Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, read by Marta Montoya, head of the Secretariat, from Narino Palace--live]

[Text] Communique No 10:

The Information and Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic hereby informs that, as had been previously agreed, a meeting was held today between 0900 and 1000. Participating were doctors Camilo Jimenez Villalba, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and Ramiro Zambra, assistant under secretary of international organizations on one side and a hooded representative of the subversive group occupying the Dominican Embassy on the other. This guerrilla representative was accompanied by Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan.

This first contact served to publicize the demands of the embassy occupiers and to make known the government's interest in solving the matter within the context of the Constitution and the laws and obtaining the prompt release of the hostages, all of them innocent victims of this abuse. For obvious reasons, the Information and Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic is not giving the details of the dialog, which will continue at a time to be agreed upon.

During the dialog, the 19 April Movement representative announced to the two government officials that five more hostages would be released today. This was done at 1200. The government yielded to the request of the Mexican ambassador to deliver, through the Red Cross, more food to make the hostages' captivity less harsh.

Bogota, 2 March 1980

Minister on Talks, Guerrilla Threats

PA022025 Paris AFP in Spanish 1953 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (AFP)--A guerrilla command group which is holding several ambassadors hostage here has threatened to blow up the Dominican Embassy if the government does not agree to its demand to release hundreds of political prisoners, Colombian Justice Minister Hugo Escobar announced here today.

The official told the Caracol Radio Network that the government will continue to act with prudence and caution to save the diplomats following the peremptory warning by the guerrillas.

Escobar blamed the 19 April Movement for whatever happens to the diplomats and described the negotiations the government and the guerrillas opened today for the release of the hostages as very difficult. Nothing has been reported officially about these initial contacts, which included two government delegates, Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan--who is included in the list of hostages--and an M-19 guerrilla woman.

No More Bulletins 3 March

PA030240 Bogota Radio Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Jesus A. (Chara) Villarreal report from Narino Palace]

[Excerpt] It has been announced that more bulletins on the negotiations between the government and the rebel group holding an undetermined number of hostages, among which there are several ambassadors, will be released tomorrow.

It has also been announced that probably no more bulletins will be released today, since the national government is carefully studying the situation.

Negotiations To Be Renewed

PA030247 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0213 GMT 3 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (EFE)--It was learned here tonight that the talks between the 19 April Movement (M-19) and the Colombian Government will be renewed on Monday.

Sources close to the Colombian Foreign Ministry expressed optimism following the result of the first talks between the guerrillas and the government. The talks led to the release of five hostages shortly afterwards.

The exact details of tomorrow's negotiations are unknown since according to reliable sources the government is not willing to yield to the main demands of the guerrillas. The release of 311 political prisoners and the publication of a communique in which the government admits that it practices torture and the violation of human rights are points which the Colombian authorities cannot accept.

There are still at least 48 hostages in the Dominican Embassy. With the release of five hostages today, the number of released people totals 23.

M-19 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTEDLY ARRIVE TO DISCUSS ASYLUM

PA011852 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1821 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Panama City, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Local press sources announced today that two representatives of the Colombian guerrilla 19 April Movement, M-19, arrived in Panama in the past few hours to negotiate the conditions of the asylum offered to the occupiers of the Dominican Embassy in Bogota.

The press report, which was not confirmed by the official sources queried in this respect, added that a representative of the Colombian Committee for Human Rights is also in Panama for the same purpose.

Panama has offerred asylum to the M-19 guerrillas as "an act of good faith" and as a way to obtain the release of the diplomats taken hostage.

The Colombian Embassy said today that it had no knowledge of the alleged arrival of the M-19 negotiators.

Panama has offerred asylum to guerrillas of several Latin American nations under similar circumstances. The latest of these occasions was when it received the Sandinist who attacked the National Palace in Managua in August 1978. Then, as well as now, the offer was made to seek a bloodless solution to situations created by guerrilla attacks.

U.S. GOVERNMENT WITHHOLDS $24 MILLION IN CANAL TOLLS

PA021734 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 1 Mar 80 p 1A PA

[By Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] The U.S. Government is withholding without any justification the payment of 24 million balboas to Panama from tolls paid by Panama Canal clients.

A top Panamanian Government official has criticized this irregularity and this criticism could develop into a formal government protest because this action violates the Torrijos-Carter treaties which went into effect on 1 October 1979.

The same source said that the United States is arguing that the money is being withheld because of an alleged debt by Panama for the supply of water during previous years to the cities of Panama and Colon.

As is well known, for various decades the former Panama Canal Company would use the water from the Chagres River, but Panama never charged the Panama Canal Company for the use and exploitation of this natural resource, which is very important and of great use to the world's merchant marine. But then the Panama Canal Company would process the water and afterwards sell it to Panamanians.

Panama rejected this argument because it is unjustified. However, this measure has paralyzed various projects connected with the nation's development.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores, who in a few hours will leave for the foreign ministers summit meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, in which they will analyze the Central American situation, told MATUTINO that this is a delicate matter and that more details will be provided.

AID Program Delayed

PA021735 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 29 Feb 80 p 1A PA

[Text] The United States is withholding a payment to Panama estimated at 24 million balboas which was stipulated in the Panama Canal treaties which became effective on 1 October.

A top government source noted that this payment represents Panama's share of the accumulated tolls charged by the Panama Canal Commission to the users of the interoceanic passage as prescribed in the new canal treaties.

According to reports given to LA REPUBLICA, the U.S. attitude, described as colonialist by the source, has also become evident in the delay of a program to build silos in several provinces. This project, which was financed by the Agency for International Development [AID], has been affected by the "administrative interference" of AID officials in the handling of the loan.

An ecomomic adviser of the U.S. Embassy whose last name is Blake, was pointed out to our informers as being the economic "spy" whose destructive attitude has resulted in the tarnishing of the good relations existing between the two countries after the signing of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The withholding of the payments which Panama must receive as a result of the Torrijos-Carter treaties and Panama's share of the canal revenues is being used by the U.S. Government as "blackmail" to collect bills for "the purification of the water" at the Miraflores plant. This would mean that Panama would be paying for the water that the Americans can get out of the Chagres River without paying a single cent for it.

The reports obtained by this paper reveal that the withholding of the payments is a new attempt by the U.S. sectors which opposed the approval of the canal treaties to keep relations between the two canal partners at their lowest level.

EMERGENCY PLAN UNIVERSITY WORKERS PROTEST DISMISSAL

PA010251 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Hundreds of workers who work in the Emergency Plan Program in the University of Panama held more rallies today to protest against their announced dismissal. They asked the university authorities to hold direct talks with President Aristides Royo and said they would use dialog instead of force to confront their problems, but they warned that they will not change their position of remaining at their posts.

Meanwhile, the Association of Workers of the University of Panama today gave its support to about 500 plan workers. They said that their work is necessary at the university and they said they would be willing to cooperate financially to maintain the employees who are in danger of losing their jobs. They said they expected the government to do the same.

In open defiance of the authorities, the Association of Workers of the University of Panama warned that if in the end most of the employees of the Emergency Plan are not reincorporated into the House of Mendez Pereira [reference to founder of the university], they might stage stoppages since they could not adequately handle the maintenance of the university installations.

HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL TALKS

PA010647 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] During the round of talks concluded a few minutes ago between Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Alejandro Gomez and his Honduran counterpart, Carlos Lopez Contreras, agreements were reached which will lead to a final peace between the two countries.

One of the most delicate issues in the negotiations between Honduras and El Salvador concerns the resumption of diplomatic relations and it can be reported that an agreement has been reached.

(?In discussing) the document containing the seven points under negotiation, the deputy foreign ministers, who met in San Jose during the past 2 days, agreed that relations will be resumed, but the final decision will be made at some future date by Foreign Ministers Eliseo Perez Cadalso and Fidel Chavez Mena.

The talks that the two countries' foreign ministers began 1 week ago in San Jose with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier's mediation has had positive results. In their 2 days of negotiations, the deputy foreign minister managed to reach positive agreements and the path to a total peace between the two countries has been opened. This would put an end to the conflict begun in 1969. Everything seems to indicate that the solution to the conflict between Honduras and El Salvador is definitive because the points under discussion have been practically resolved. The final agreement might be signed in the next few weeks, once the two foreign ministers meet with mediator Dr Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero in Panama in mid-March.

Following are statements by the Honduran and Salvadoran deputy foreign ministers:

[Begin recording] [Gomez Vives] The results have been highly positive. We have advanced greatly and we have discussed five points. Agreements have been reached and we have [word indistinct] the five points that had been pending. There are still other issues that need to be resolved, but they are few. In general terms, it could be said that our meeting here with Carlos and with the other members of the delegations has been successful.

[Question] (?I am) [name indistinct] Diaz, from Honduras. Has some agreement been reached in connection with the resumption of relations between the two countries?

[Lopez Contreras] There is an agreement in principle for the reestablishment of diplomatic relations but, as you know, that topic is included among the seven currently being negotiated. So the date for the resumption of relations has not been set. There is, nonetheless, an agreement in principle in connection with the resumption of relations.

I fully agree with my colleague Alejandro in that the negotiations have been fruitful. I think we both have been inspired by a pacifist spirit and by the hospitality shown us by the Costa Rican Government and people within the ideal framework of the Central American Court of Justice. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

COLOMBIAN M-19 MEMBERS IN SAN JOSE ARRESTED

PA291630 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Members of the 19 April Movement [M-19] were arrested yesterday in San Jose.

The police yesterday arrested the three Monge Benavides brothers, who are members of the Colombian M-19 Movement. They arrived in the country after seeking asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy in Bogota in September 1979.

Although the reason was not disclosed it is believed that they were arrested based on the belief that they might be connected with the guerrilla group holding diplomatic hostages in the Dominican Embassy in Bogota.

During an operation staged by security and immigration agents, Jorge Armando, Jose Gabriel and Fabio Monge Benavides were arrested and taken to the police headquarters where they are being detained under strict vigilance while the police are tracking down another Colombian named Ramon.

The four Colombians connected with the M-19 Movement are in Costa Rica under territorial protection, but do not have political asylum. Yesterday their wives and sisters-in-law filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Supreme Court on the grounds of loss of liberty and alleging that all are in the country under the protection of the UN commissioner for refugees.

AUTHORITIES CRACK DOWN ON EXTREMISTS

PA022359 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2200 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] San Jose, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Costa Rican National Security Agency has arrested two members of the Simon Bolivar International Brigade, which participated in the Sandinist struggle that overthrew the Somozist regime in Nicaragua.

They are Maria Perez Gentil and Gil Gonzalez, whose nationalities have not been disclosed. The exact reasons for their arrest have not been disclosed either, but both remain imprisoned in a local jail.

Lately the Costa Rican Government has been increasingly arresting and expelling extremists.

A few days ago, the security agency cpatured three Colombians who had sought asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy in Bogota. The three Colombians are being linked with the M-19, which is holding 13 diplomats hostage in the Colombian capital.

The Costa Rican authorities have not allowed newsmen to interview those arrested. According to them, the prisoners are under the jurisdiction of President Rodrigo Carazo himself.

EL SALVADOR

WOMEN'S FRONT ADDRESSES OPEN LETTER TO MRS CARTER

PA012314 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 1 Mar 80 p 35 PA

[Advertisement by the Salvadoran Women's Front: "Open Letter to Her Excellency Rosalynn Carter, First Lady of the United States," dated 28 February]

[Text] Madam: In an item in LA PRENSA GRAFICA on 23 February we read a statement attributed to a spokesman of the State Department which read: "Thomas Reston, State Department spokesman, today reaffirmed U.S. support for the program of economic and social changes adopted by the civilian-military government junta since its assumption of power 4 months ago."

With great concern, we are paying the fatal consequences those changes are producing in our fatherland. As Salvadoran citizens, we feel the blow of having our Constitution modified at the whim of this small group of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], which is bringing chaos to our country. It has been proved clearly that this political group has no popular support, as was demonstrated on 19 February when it called a meeting and, to cover up the poor attendance, was forced to send in members of the Salvadoran Communal Union (UCS).

The attack on private property could not be more obvious than by the decree freezing rural property retroactively, the consequence of which has been the total paralysis of agriculture.

The nationalization of foreign trade, begun with coffee exports under the pretext that all wealth from this product had been concentrated in a few hands, has now concentrated it in the hands of a single owner--the state--demonstrating to us that we are heading toward totalitarianism, which runs contrary to the free enterprise system that has always been advocated and practiced by your country.

There has been nationalization of the private financial system, which for more than 100 years has had the full confidence of the public and whose representatives have suggested reforms in the system to the Revolutionary Government Junta. We feel these suggestions should be heeded to forestall another hasty and totalitarian measure. These measures that are smothering freedom and economic life in this country seem more like measures dictated by international communism.

El Salvador's tax rate is the highest in Latin America, which has made it possible to allocate the largest share of the national budget to health and education.

Our fiscal activities as of 1979 closed with a surplus, proving to the Western world the efficiency of the free enterprise system in our country.

In view of the threat that a loan of $50 million [as published] might be withheld, we would like to tell you with all due respect that in the coffee industry alone, as a result of the measures taken by the Revolutionary Government Junta, the country has suffered a loss of $200 million in 2 months--in January and February of this year.

This erroneous attitude on the part of many State Department officials, instead of avoiding a civil war, which is the intent, will do more to provoke one, based not on conviction but on hunger.

We urge you to keep in mind that all these political and economic factors that we have outlined to you are not based on our own egotism or a desire to conserve our privileges, as some try to make it appear. We only desire, as women, to keep our fatherland from falling into the claws of communism, as has occurred in other countries because of mistaken policies on the part of your powerful country.

We hope your strong intervention on behalf of our right as Salvadorans, as mothers and as wives may come in time to save our fatherland. A prompt answer from you is of vital importance in deciding the fate of an entire people.

Respectfully yours, Olga de Ramirez, Edith de Magana, Gladys de Machon, Gloria Paz, Fina de Palomo, for the Salvadoran Women's Front.

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN

PA291534 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 28 Feb 80 pp 28, 30 PA

["Glosando" column by Guillermo B. Menjivar: "Voices From Washington"]

[Text] ASSOCIATED PRESS dispatches published by the local press late last week and early this week contain interesting and very revealing information from the State Department disclosed by official spokesman Thomas Reston and another Carter administration official who asked "not to give his name."

One might say this man acted treacherously. Was it out of shame, shrewdness, calculation or fear of something? Only God knows. The important thing is for those Pipiles [Indian settlers in El Salvador] who live beyond the southern part of the border, residents of a small "banana" republic, to stop messing around and find out once and for all what, how much and who is wanted by those along the shining corridors and elegant offices on the "fourth floor" of the State Department.

It is precisely the floor where Cuba's destiny was "brewed" more than 20 years ago, placing it in Castro's hands. What Earle E. Smith, the last U.S. ambassador to Cuba, said about it in great detail backed by evidence must be remembered. On 30 August 1960 when he fielded the questions of a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, he said: "U.S. Government organs and the American press played a major role in Castro's coming to power."

However, what we want is not for the powerful and sometimes misinformed and naive neighbors to blush out of shame. What we want to do is make a brief analysis of what Mr Thomas Reston and the anonymous official who asked not to give his name said to see how much truth there is to what has been outlined: What, how much and who is wanted in our country by the Washington offices handling the foreign relations of one of the two world powers.

What does the State Department want? It wants the Salvadoran social and political process to remain strictly within a set framework that it claims is an infallible diagnosis and prescription. The "official computer" has been fed the data and information that U.S. Government agents were able to obtain, placing special importance on the most reliable--that given by obsequious Christian Democratic sources. The electronic brains processed the reports and came up with an answer. That answer must not be altered.

How does the State Department want the answer implemented? In a way that does not alter it. It wants it implemented with a will to lead and dominate as someone who can use what belongs to him as he wishes. Warnings and threats are not lacking from those who in our own country dissent from the outlines, diagnoses and prescriptions given by others in a foreign country. Finally the State Department peremptorily wants to get those involved in the process because it is going slowly [as published].

How much does the State Department want? It wants everything: total obedience, total submission and the commitment to comply. If that is done, there is a reward in store--a few million dollars that will barely compensate for a small part of the great damage done to the national economy since the "salvation formula" was implemented. On the contrary, the warning has been clear cut and final: Remember, Pipiles, what happened in Bolivia when the United States decided to withdraw all humanitarian aid to those Andean mestizos. Remember "Tacho," the former Nicaraguan president that the United States made certain would receive no more aid from anywhere in the world when it stopped sending the aid provided for many years. These textual warnings are insolent in style and content.

Whom does the State Department want? It wants the most youthful, the most submissive, and the most committed to the all-powerful northern nation, those who--even though it is admitted they completely lack popular support--deserve to be sponsored. They must rule. They must do what the prescription says. They must be imposed and kept no matter what, under the threat of being smothered or with the promise of coming dollars.

This is State Department spokesman Thomas Reston's message to the Salvadoran people. This is the message of the one who "did not want to give his name."

However, these gentlemen and their leaders do not want to hear other messages clamorously being heard in our America. These messages can be epitomized in the simple words of a Colombian whose name does not matter. He said: "While Americans with their irresolute and timorous President are insisting on their disagreeable childishness, they are going to wait for the Soviets to try to crush them through their Cuban puppet along with the rest of America." (quote taken from page 3 of magazine VISION of 26 January 1980)

BPR WARNS OF U.S. PLANS FOR DIRECT INTERVENTION

PA012356 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 29 Feb 80 p 53 PA

[Advertisement: "Manifesto From the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc to Our People and the Other Peoples of the World--Yankee Imperialism is Preparing for Direct Intervention in El Salvador"]

[Excerpts] Our people's advance in their struggle for liberation is an undeniable and irreversible fact, because there is no force capable of halting the course of history and even less of turning back the forces of an entire people who are determined to achieve their definitive liberation.

Yankee imperialism, the anti-historical international gendarme, has tried in vain to check the revolutionary history of the Salvadoran people.

The most recent act of intervention in our country was that of 15 October 1979, when, using a reformist maneuver, the imperialists sought to deviate or contain our people's struggle. With the defeat of this maneuver by a people determined today more than ever to obtain their freedom by their own means, Yankee imperialism is planning direct intervention as a means of subjugating our people and of annihilating the popular revolutionary movement. This is the only alternative open to imperialism to preserve its interests in the region.

The Yankee embassies are the true centers of political and military power. From there come the orders from Washington to the civilian or military lackeys of the moment. This is where the genocidal minds of the CIA hatch their plans of torture and terror, the most effective methods of massive and selective repression of our people.

How Does Yankee Imperialism Plan To Stage This Brazen Criminal Action Against Our People's Self-Determination?

In the past few days it was announced that $58 million would be sent to strengthen the Salvadoran Government. Along with this, the imperialists have announced that 36 experts in counterinsurgency would be sent, as well as several dozen military communications "experts" to give even more technical training to the criminal repressive corps in our country. In connivance with the recalcitrant right in our country and in Guatemala, they are organizing terrorist bands consisting primarily of mercenaries and former Somozist guardsmen. In Escuintla Department in Guatemala they have set up a training camp on the estate of Sandoval Alarcon, a top leader of the National Liberation Movement (MLN).

In promoting their military policy, the imperialists have taken the trouble to place strategic forces at bases in the Persian Gulf and the Caribbean Sea.

On our continent they have instruments like the OAS and the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR) to sanctify their expansionist plans as being for legitimate defense.

Why Is Yankee Imperialism Keeping the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] in Power?

The Yankees know that the PDC is no domestic alternative in their scheme of domination. It is a political power which has been discredited and the opportunistic and self-serving role of its corrupt leaders revealed, with the leaders being rejected even by the party rank and file. However, the PDC represents, for Yankee imperialism, the possibility of intervening directly in our country, not as a hotbed aggressor but as a benefactor.

This is the opprobrious role of the PDC at this time. Internationally, it is working to give a distorted image of the heroic struggle of our people. The PDC portrays the criminal junta as a "centrist government" that is not repressive (since the genocidal repression in the cities and the countryside are described as actions of the "ultra-rightists" that are out of the junta's control) and that is seeking to make changes in the country. It is presented as the only alternative for peace in the face of war to the death between the "right and the left." This is an ideal framework for the Yankee interventionists to come in as a pacifying force to prevent civil war and guarantee the changes the junta claims to be effective.

This is the reason for the trips by Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez, by order of Yankee imperialism--to distort the struggle of an entire people in order to undermine sympathy for the peoples revolutionary movement in the Andean Pact countries, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and so forth. In fact it was hinted in Venezuela that there might be a need for a "neutral force" to pacify the country.

These maneuvers, artfully planned by the Yankee imperialists, will permit them to come into our country without having to face the political isolation of the other countries of the continent and the world.

No to Yankee intervention in El Salvador. Yes to a democratic revolutionary government of the Salvadoran people.

[Signed] Francisco Antonio Alfaro, Raul Baires, Marco Antonio Portillo, Elio Enay Bran and Jose Maravilla, for the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc.

OPPOSITION LEADERS ASK FOR MEXICAN SUPPORT

PA292330 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0506 GMT 27 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Feb (EFE)--Representatives of three opposition organizations of El Salvador today asked for the support of the Mexican Government for the "popular struggles" of this Central American country.

The request was made by Augusto Coto of the United Popular Action Front [FAPU], Carlos Lara of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] and Lilian Jimenez of the Nationalist Democratic Union [UDN].

During a news conference in which the "Platform of the revolutionary democratic government" of El Salvador was presented, the leaders pointed out that the military government junta seeks the support of democratic regimes. They pointed out that Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena's visit to Mexico last week had been for this purpose.

Likewise, the leftists reiterated that it is possible that a "Pinochetazo" (coup d'etat) could be carried out by the "most reactionary" sectors of El Salvador. They cautioned that if the coup d'etat is carried out, at least 40 young officers would be assassinated and that the popular organizations have plans for an insurrection and prolonged peoples war. They explained that the "Pinochetazo" is only a option since, they said, there are other means for assuring the power of the "oligarchy."

Coto believes that "insurrection is around the corner," stressing that "the Salvadoran people have won the right to insurrection."

In conclusion, the members of the FAPU, the BPR and the UDN asked for the "fraternal solidarity" of the Spanish-American people and people of the world.

JUDGE ORDERS RELEASE OF LP-28 LEADERS, BPR OFFICIAL

Two LP-28 Guerrillas

PA012254 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1844 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Here is a report from the Isidro Menende Judicial Center regarding the arrested 28 February Peoples Leagues [LP-28] members: A release order has just been issued on LP-28 members Carlos Argueta and Guillermo Canenguez Perez. Seventh Criminal Court Judge Santiago Mendoza Aguilar has ordered the release of Carlos Argueta and Canenguez Perez, who denied charges the National Police had made against them. They admitted only that they are LP-28 members.

The judge ruled that there were no grounds for their arrest and ordered their release. The release order will be given to the two prisoners' lawyer, Maria Elena Garcia Villa.

BPR's Juan Chacon Released

PA012258 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1855 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Fifth Criminal Court Judge Enresto Alfonso Buitrago has just ordered the release of Juan Chacon on bail of 300 colones. Juan Chacon is secretary general of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc [BPR].

We had previously reported the release order in favor of 28 February Peoples Leagues members Carlos Argueta and Guillermo Canenguez Perez, who had also been arrested by the National Police. Their case was being heard by the Seventh Criminal Court judge who found there were not sufficient grounds for their arrest.

Judge Buitrago also found insufficient grounds for Chacon's arrest and he will be released on bail.

LEFTISTS OCCUPY SAN SALVADOR CATHEDRAL

PA290456 Paris AFP in Spanish 0237 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Feb (AFP)--The Marxist Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) occupied the San Salvador Cathedral tonight. This is the 25th time it has been occupied during the past year.

A BPR member explained that the occupation is for the purpose of giving refuge to those who need asylum following the 28 February Peoples Leagues [LP-28] demonstrations today.

These demonstrations, carried out in various parts of the capital, are to celebrate the second anniversary of the LP-28 and also to demand the release of Carlos Argueta, one of the League leaders, and Juan Chacon, BPR secretary.

So far no casualties have resulted, however, it is recalled that it was here in the San Salvador Cathedral where several hundreds of dead and wounded were taken following an outbreak of violence.

BPR MEMBERS OCCUPY CATHEDRAL IN USULUTAN DEPARTMENT

PA012335 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Masked men unexpectedly occupied the Santiago de Maria Cathedral. At 0930 today, as a Mass was being held at the Cathedral of Santiago de Maria, Usulutan Department, some 20 masked individuals forced the people to leave and began to put up placards of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc.

This station was told that the unidentified individuals carried firearms and knives. No more details on the occupation are available at this time.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE CONTINUES; SIX DEAD

PA022354 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2136 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The machinegunned bodies of five workers were found this morning near a textile factory located 13 km east of this capital.

These five new victims raise to six the number of dead as a result of the political violence prevalent in this country. The five bodies have not been identified yet, but they presumably belonged to five motorists who used to work in the San Salvador central market.

Meanwhile, 29-year-old teacher Rene Perez Lopez, secretary general of the Salvadoran National Teachers' Association (ANDES) in Atiquizaya, 20 km southwest of Santa Ana, died in a hospital in Santa Ana, 67 km west of San Salvador.

Three unidentified men machinegunned Perez as he was leaving his school on Friday. Perez died on Saturday morning in the Santa Ana hospital where he had been taken.

ANDES has decreed a 3-day mourning period in those towns where Perez used to work as secretary general of the organization. ANDES is affiliated with the leftist Peoples Revolutionary Bloc.

THREE POLICEMEN KILLED IN AMBUSH IN ILOBASCO

PA012245 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1422 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Ilobasco, El Salvador, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Three Salvadoran National Policemen were killed shortly after daybreak today when they were ambushed by Marxist activists while on patrol in downtown Ilobasco, 54 km northeast of San Salvador.

After the ambush the subversives called a meeting and urged the townspeople to rise up against the authorities to establish a leftist government. There were no reports of victims among the leftists.

POWERFUL BOMB DAMAGES AGRICULTURE MINISTRY

PA012112 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1949 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--A powerful bomb this afternoon damaged the installations of the Salvadoran Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, in the northern part of the city. So far the identity of the group that perpetrated this terrorist attack, the latest in the wave of violence that has engulfed this Central American country for the past 2 years, is unknown.

TRADE UNIONS ANNOUNCE STRIKE TO BEGIN 3 MARCH

PA012324 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1835 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Statement by unidentified spokesman of the Jose Guillermo Rivas Trade Unions Coordinating Committee--live]

[Excerpt] The Revolutionary Trade Union Federation and the Jose Guillermo Rivas Trade Unions Coordinating Committee call on all their union affiliates to support a militant labor strike beginning at 1000 on 3 March. This strike is to demand immediate solution of the demands of the Association of Workers of the National Telecommunications Administration and the immediate release of Juan Chacon, secretary general of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc.

We also invite the working class and the Salvadoran people to participate in the great demonstration of the Farmworkers Federation at 1000 on 5 March beginning at the [name indistinct] park. Its objective is to demand the immediate release of Companero Juan Chacon and a 20-percent reduction in land rents by the Agriculture Ministry.

JUNTA MEMBERS COMMENT ON COUP ATTEMPT, REFORM

PA010107 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1426 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The rightwing must be treated with a heavy hand to implement the changes announced, Revolutionary Junta Government member Dr Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich told foreign newsmen. He stressed that the changes--agrarian reform and nationalization of banks and foreign trade--will be announced in the next few days and he accused the rightwing of having attempted to overthrow the current government.

Proof of this, he went on, is the fact that last week the National Association of Private Enterprise made use of all publicity resources to launch a big campaign aimed at justifying the coup that would be staged this weekend. The government knows a military sector also participated. This will be investigated in order to punish those responsible.

In connection with this junta member Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano commented that there had been rumors of an alleged coup, but that he could not say who the leaders of that movement were. In a severe tone of voice he stressed that if those responsible are discovered, they will be punished and he stated that civilians rather than armed forces members had participated in the coup. Colonel Majano did not discard the possibility of a coup being staged and added that, should that occur the young military officers would be on the side of the people.

He firmly added that the young military officers do not want to return to the old systems that existed before 15 October. And, he went on, the rightist sectors have already had 50 years of opportunity and they did not bring about any changes.

Colonel Majano stated in conclusion that the present government wants to benefit the people by developing programs that alter the existing economic schemes. He said the young military officers will promote changes and will not stick to previous systems. He indicated that work is being carried out in connection with specific reform projects which constitute the focal point of the country's economic changes. He added that the initial decrees connected with those reforms will be announced in the next few days.

Asked if a state of siege would be implemented to bring about the announced changes, Dr Morales Ehrlich responded that this would not be necessary because these changes have the support of the people and the armed forces, who have become identified with each other.

GUTIERREZ SAYS MILITARY WANTS REFORMS, NOT RIGHTIST COUP

PA012240 Paris AFP in Spanish 1727 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[By AFP special correspondent Gilberto Lopez]

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Mar (AFP)--Col Jaime Adbul Gutierrez, one of the officers in the government junta, today told AFP that the main concern of the military who seized power last 15 October is to consolidate the external front to keep the government junta from becoming isolated.

Gutierrez said: A rightist coup would isolate us politically from the other Latin American countries. He recalled that Somoza's overthrow in Nicaragua was preceded by the Latin American nations' decision to disavow his government.

Gutierrez reiterated the call for the popular organizations to back the current reforms proposed by the government junta.

Saying that he is convinced that the pacification process will begin when the structural reforms get underway, particularly after the agrarian reform process announced for next week begins, the colonel stressed that the armed forces solidly supports these projects. The only viable alternative for El Salvador is the one we are pursuing, he added.

Dressed in mufti--the opposite of the other military member of the junta, Col Adolfo Majano, who always is in uniform--Gutierrez analyzed the current political situation in which the military-Christian Democratic junta is under pressure from both the extreme right and the extreme left.

The present cabinet is much more homogenous than the previous one, he said, referring to the first cabinet formed following the overthrow of General Romero last year. Gutierrez also defended the representativeness of the Christian Democrats, the only party participating in the administration.

The allegation that the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] does not have any popular support is based on the failure of a meeting they held, but the majority of the municipal councilmen and mayors are PDC members, and from these posts they can organize on a nationwide level, Gutierrez pointed out.

He admitted, however, that there are differences between the military and the PDC because of internal difficulties in each, but indicated that he believed that the PDC-military alliance was better than a merely independent government. Gutierrez said he does not believe that the armed forces would like the Christian Democrats to withdraw from the government.

This week the PDC gave the armed forces an ultimatum, denouncing the aborted military coup scheduled for last weekend, and demanding that those involved be punished.

This denunciation heightened the differences between the military and the PDC, and Gutierrez termed this unfortunate. I don't believe such a coup ever was planned, he said, because it would have needed the support of the batallion and company commanders.

Recalling earlier times in El Salvador, Colonel Gutierrez said: It is no longer possible to overthrow a government in El Salvador by means of phone calls. He added that the officers who did not participate in the 15 October coup are being incorporated into the process to achieve greater unity among the armed forces. Gutierrez emphasized: The military are determined to carry out these changes that the country needs, and in the next few days they will make this clear.

GUATEMALA

CONGRESS UNEASY ABOUT VICE PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL

PA292335 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1438 GMT 27 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Congress has allowed Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer to leave Central America for 37 days, although it is doubtful he will come back.

Deputies of various blocs, particularly the opposition National Liberation Movement, said today that most likely Villagran Kramer will tender his resignation from "somewhere in Europe."

The authorization was given based on his request "to visit my children abroad" and because he will be a guest speaker at "Oceanotropiques-80" in Bordeaux 4-8 March.

The request covers 1 March through 7 April "when at the latest I will be back in Guatemala," but the widespread belief among the deputies is that he will not come back.

Villagran Kramer has insisted on his intention to resign for more than a year, although 15 days ago he announced he would not because he is ready to abide by the Constitution. A previous authorization requested for early February was denied precisely "to keep him from resigning abroad," but now the deputies have decided to let him go even though they still doubt whether he will return "to continue ruling with an upset framework, as he has put it."

MLN CRITICIZES U.S. LATIN AMERICA POLICY

PA292002 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1637 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Russia and the United States are two aggressors. The only difference between them is that one attacks with weapons and the other with money. So states the anticommunist opposition National Liberation Movement [MLN], the best organized party in Guatemala, in an official bulletin released here today.

The bulletin is "a protest against the abusive attitude of direct interference in the internal politics of our sister republic of El Salvador," and is based on recent reports from the United States.

The bulletin refers specifically to the U.S. State Department announcement that it will cancel all military and economic aid if a coup is staged against the Salvadoran Government junta.

"Why does Uncle Sam make so much noise over the Russian invasion of Afghanistan if he is doing the same thing in El Salvador?" the MLN asks. It adds that "at least the Russians will have the courage to do it openly and for their own benefit."

"Neither El Salvador nor any other Latin American country wants handouts. We sardines are sick and tired of sharks, and with all our breath we shout: Russia get out of Afghanistan; gringos get out of El Salvador," the MLN states.

Finally, the MLN bulletin criticizes current U.S. domestic policy and Carter's re-election campaign. It says that "the (U.S.) people should demand that Carter practice what he preaches and prevent him from utilizing his government machinery to impose his fatal human rights policy. Perhaps in this way the United States will recover its good name, its former friends and its great power, which today are irremediably lost in incompetent or treasonous hands," the bulletin concludes.

FUR LEADER KILLED IN ESCUINTLA; SECOND IN WEEK

PA012307 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1434 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Jesus Noriega, a leader of the United Revolutionary Front [FUR] in Escuintla, on Guatemala's south coast, was killed by gunfire from persons as yet unidentified, the National Police disclosed today.

Noriega also held a municipal post in Escuintla, the capital of a province currently shaken by strikes at the local sugar mills, where agricultural workers are demanding salary increases.

The FUR, a leftist democratic party authorized in 1978, lost two of its leaders this week. Cesar Romero, a militant of the youth faction, was murdered in Guatemala City Thursday.

In early February National Director Abrahan Ixcancapric was shot to death by a group of men, and FUR founder and leader Manuel Colom Argueta was murdered in March 1979.

FUR leaders said today that, according to their count, this new murder brings to eight the number of FUR leaders who have been assassinated. They claim that "this shows that a plan is afoot to eliminate the Guatemalan people's only political alternative."

HONDURAS

BOYCOTT OF MOSCOW OLYMPIC GAMES ANNOUNCED BY GOVERNMENT

PA010103 Paris AFP in Spanish 2145 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Feb (AFP)--In opposition to a Honduran Olympic Committee recommendation, the Honduran military government today decided to ban this country's participation in the coming Olympic games in Moscow.

In a communique released here, the Honduran Government expresses its solidarity with those countries which have voiced their protest at the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan by not sending Olympic teams to Moscow.

According to the communique, the Honduran Government feels that as regards the defense of their sovereignty and the protection of their vital interests, the sole guarantee for the more highly developed states lies in their unrestricted observance of the principle of nonintervention and respect for independence.

COMMENTARY ASSAILS 'WAR HYSTERIA' IN U.S. GOVERNMENT

FL282001 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 80 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry combatants "Political Information" program commentary]

[Excerpts] The war hysteria is picking up new tempo among U.S. ruling circles, to such a degree that even President James Carter speaks without weighing his words to try to intimidate with haughtiness and threats.

In his message to the nation some days ago, Carter proclaimed the purpose of making the United States the most powerful nation on earth. He spoke of the alleged Soviet threat and of his country's right to protect the world. Of course, the U.S. President would have resorted to the stale pretexts to which Yankee diplomacy is accustomed in order to generate a body of opinion favorable to the real objectives he seeks.

Carter made the statements precisely at the time he was submitting to Congress the 1981 budget of which one-sixth or $158 billion would be used for military plans. The President proposed nothing concrete or effective to halt the crisis: inflation, which U.S. economists predict will increase this year as a result of unwise government policy; unemployment, which affects more than 7 million workers; or a solution to the serious social problems that are affecting millions of North Americans.

The emphasis of the statements at that time, just as earlier ones made by his principal advisers and officials, was aimed at achieving a refined anti-Sovietism and making the USSR appear as a threat to other nations, thereby using it as the reason for promoting an arms race and an arms buildup of the United States and its allies, especially the members of the NATO warmongering bloc.

The U.S. press and certain U.S. personalities are criticizing the path which the James Carter administration is taking. The New York TIMES, in an article entitled "Carter's Cold War Tactic," says that the President has taken a leap toward a dangerous policy.

The U.S. Government aspires to attain its foreign policy objectives from a position of strength and wants to assume the right to intervene in any country and any region of the world. The arms race spiral that Washington is stirring up, the reinforcement of its troops overseas, its development of new military bases on the Indian Ocean, the concentration of warships in the Persian Gulf, and the supply of weapons to Pakistan, Egypt, Israel, Thailand and other countries are part of the U.S. plan to dominate the world.

The Carter administration is using the events in Iran and Afghanistan as a pretext to openly threaten the use of military force. It speaks of mining the Hormuz Strait and blockading the Persian region and of employing the so-called rapid deployment force to invade any part of the world.

The Yankee language truly is gross. It does not respect the sovereign rights of states or the international norms that govern relations between countries. And it is likewise no less dangerous since U.S. rulers apparently are incapable of assessing the characteristics of the world in which we live and, in their hysteria and insanity, neither do they weigh the consequences that may arise.

TELEVISION COMMENTATOR SEES U.S. PREPARING COUP IN EL SALVADOR

FL011305 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Mar 80 FL

[Jorge Timossi commentary]

[Text] Are we witnessing another dirty maneuver by the United States in Central America, specifically in El Salvador? Indications of this are growing while the country gravitates toward the revolutionary forces that are gaining in unity and cohesion and are emerging as a political factor for true change.

The U.S. State Department has just come out in support of the ruling junta by publicly proclaiming that its embassy in San Salvador had had contacts with the militarymen and civilians who were planning a Pinochet-style coup d'etat for this Monday. In backing the ruling alliance in this manner, the United States is openly intervening in favor of plans to establish a restricted, workable democracy whose characteristics would include some reforms coupled with strong repression of the people. But this type of intervention does not in any way exclude the possibility of a coup and makes even more precarious the existence of the demo-Christian military junta. Restricted democracy and a coup d'etat in El Salvador are concomitant and complement U.S. policy in the area. They are not necessarily mutually exclusive, as some observers believe.

This was in evidence this past weekend--possibly because of some miscalculation or perhaps because it was necessary in this line of intervention which has been called the U.S. secret war in Central America--when William Bowdler, assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, and Robert Pastore, White House advisor for Latin American affairs, visited Panama. Press sources ascertain that the talks held, which were set up by Carter's protocol chief Hamilton Jordan--the same Jordan who was at the bottom of the very secret transfer of the ex-shah from the United States to Panama--ended in deep disagreement on the part of all concerned since the Panamanians became convinced that Washington was sponsoring a coup d'etat in El Salvador. The U.S. ambassador in El Salvador, Robert Moss, [as heard] at whose house the talks were held, immediately denied the reports and announced that his country is trying to prevent further bloodshed in El Salvador.

An elementary analysis of these reports shows the United States supporting restricted democracy but, at the same time, holding the key to open the door to a Pinochet-style coup whenever they consider the time is right. The peculiar concept of sovereignty which the current Salvadoran junta presents to the world allows U.S. agents to contact the coupists with the promptness and speed they demonstrated last week.

In any case, this restricted democracy has a considerable military and espionage foundation that is turning the area into a powder keg--secret training of former Somozist guardsmen in Honduras, landing of arms and mercenaries in El Salvador and Guatemala, increasing activities of the U.S. information office which has liaison offices in all Central American countries, and the sending of anti-riot teams and U.S. military advisors who entered through the Salvadoran ports of Acajutla and La Libertad.

It remains to be seen if in the secret Panama talks Bowdler explained the new activities noted on U.S. military bases in the canal.

U.S. ARMS ESCALATION DENOUNCED AT WPC PLENUM

FL292234 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2211 GMT 29 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Cuba today asked for the solidarity of all progressive forces for the peoples of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Grenada and Guatemala, and denounced the United States for its military activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Speaking at the plenary session of the World Peace Council [WPC] in Ethiopia, the Cuban representative, Francisco Astray, presented documented charges against the U.S. Government concerning its arms escalation throughout the world. He condemned U.S. plans to install nuclear missiles in Western Europe and the Pentagon's deployment of forces in the Arabian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, Southeast Asia and, especially, in the Caribbean.

The Cuban representative accused the Carter administration of increasing the U.S. military budget. He recalled that during his first electoral campaign Carter said he would reduce military expenditures by 7 percent and now he was trying to get a new $151 billion budget approved.

Astray added that the U.S. armaments policy can be observed in Europe with its installation of new nuclear missiles; in Asia with its support of the Chinese leadership; in the Middle East with its military strengthening of the Zionist state of Israel; and in Africa with the granting to South Africa of access to nuclear development plans. Francisco Astray stressed that Washington's new bellicose escalation has begun in the form of provocations. Lastly, he noted the WPC proposal to hold a parliament of peoples for peace.

CPSU 'CONTROL COMMITTEE' OFFICIAL ARRIVES

FL261742 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Ivan B. Gustov, first deputy chairman of the CPSU Control Committee and candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived yesterday in Havana City in response to an invitation of the PCC. Omar Iser Mojena, vice president of the PCC National Control and Revisions Committee, and Rene de los Santos, member of the PCC Central Committee, welcomed the visitor at the air terminal.

Juan Almeida Meets Visitor

FL282314 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, member of the Politburo and chairman of the party Control and Revisions Committee, has held a fraternal meeting with the delegation headed by Ivan S. Gustov, first deputy chairman of the CPSU Control Committee and alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee. The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere and various aspects of the work of control and revision of both parties as well other topics of interest were discussed.

SOVIET EDUCATION MINISTER CONTINUES OFFICIAL VISIT

Views Museum, Memorial

FL271839 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Vyacheslav Yelyutin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of higher and secondary specialized education, and his delegation have visited the Museum of the Revolution and Granma Memorial. The visitors were accompanied on the tour by Oscar Garcia, Cuban vice minister of higher education.

At the memorial the Soviet delegation was briefed on the heroic feat of the Granma yacht expeditionaries. As part of the program of activities the delegation led by Yelyutin also visited the Jose Antonio Echeverria Higher Polytechnical Institute and installations of Havana University.

Visits Educational Centers

FL291258 Havana *Domestic Service in Spanish* 1100 GMT 29 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Various educational centers and the Ernest Hemingway Museum were visited Thursday by the delegation headed by Vyacheslav P. Yelyutin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of higher and secondary specialized education. Accompanied by Jose Ramon Fernandez, member of the PCC Central Committee, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of education, the Soviet delegation also toured the Lenin Vocational School and the Eduardo Garcia Delgado Technological Institute.

Arrival on Isle of Youth

FL292133 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2108 GMT 29 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Vyacheslav Yelyutin, USSR minister of higher and secondary specialized education and member of the CPSU Central Committee, and the delegation he heads have arrived on the Isle of Youth accompanied by Vice Minister of Education Oscar Garcia. On arrival at the Nueva Gerona Airport, they were received by Armando Manresa, first secretary of the party municipal committee, and Felix Sautie, vice president of the people's government municipal assembly. The distinguished visitors toured the former Modelo prison where they observed cell block No 4 used for political prisoners and the hospital ward where attackers of the Moncada Barracks were held with Fidel. They also will visit rural secondary schools and places of economic and social development of the Isle of Youth special municipality.

NEW NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR ARRIVES

FL291722 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Manuel Andara Ubeda, the new ambassador to Cuba of the Government of Nicaragua's National Reconstruction Junta, has arrived in Havana City. The diplomat was received at the air terminal by Rafael Hernandez, second deputy director of protocol, and Ramiro Abreu, chief of the PCC Central Committee Central America section. Others welcoming the Nicaraguan ambassador were Manuel Guillot, an official of the Foreign Ministry's America Department, and Mercedes Aguiar, chief of a department of the Foreign Ministry.

CONDITIONS OF U.S. LOAN TO NICARAGUA NOTED

PA291646 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a loan of $75 million for technical aid to Nicaragua with several amendments. One of the amendments stipulates that this aid may be suspended and prompt repayment required by demand of the U.S. President or two-thirds of the House in the event that Nicaragua fails to comply with any of the requirements. One of the requirements is that the money not be used for the national literacy campaign. In this regard, Moises Hassan, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said his country will not accept the imposition of conditions for the granting of the U.S. loan.

In addition, the newspaper BARRICADA, which is published in Nicaragua, emphasized that Nicaragua is not a colony of the United States and condemned the attitude of the U.S. Congress which met behind closed doors to analyze reports from CIA agents regarding that Central American nation.

For its part, the Soviet news agency NOVOSTI reports that U.S. instructors are training on Honduran territory 5000 [as heard] former Somozist guardsmen who are preparing to attack Nicaragua.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ANDEAN GROUP DISCUSSES BOGOTA EMBASSY TAKEOVER

PY281954 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1802 GMT 28 Feb 80 PY

[Text] La Paz, 28 Feb (LATIN)--The Andean Group began consultations today seeking "to coordinate their efforts" toward the prompt release of the hostages in the Dominican Embassy in Colombia, the Bolivian Government announced today. Bolivian Foreign Minister Julio Garret Ayllon said that President Lidia Gueiler's government "most strongly condemns that criminal deed which violates the basic humanitarian principles of civilized coexistence." He said: "Immediately after we learned about the event we contacted Colombian officials, expressing our deep concern and strong protest as well as our conviction that the government of that friendly country will not spare any efforts to insure the security of the hostages and their prompt release. At the same time, consultations have begun with the foreign ministries of the Andean countries and other countries affected by the event in order to coordinate their efforts toward the prompt release of the hostages." Foreign Minister Garret made this statement in his office today at noon.

He also reported that "the Foreign Ministry is approaching the papal nunciature in order that the Holy See, exercising its spiritual authority as an interested party, interpose its high authority to put a speedy end to the abnormal situation."

Bolivian Charge d'Affaires Reynaldo del Carpio Jauregui is among the diplomats being held hostage by the guerrillas at the Embassy of the Dominican Republic.

ARGENTINA

LATIN: USSR BUYS CORN, DOUBLES WHEAT PURCHASE

PY291652 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0335 GMT 29 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpts] Rosario, Argentina, 29 Feb (LATIN)--The Soviet Union has purchased 1.5 million tons of corn and has doubled its wheat purchase, which will reach 2 million tons, it was reported here today by sources closely linked to agricultural activities. The sources, which asked not to be identified, told LATIN that the Soviet Union had contracted the purchase of 1 million tons of wheat prior to the U.S. grain embargo ordered by President Jimmy Carter in reprisal for the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, but that the Kremlin has now purchased another million tons. The sources indicated that the harvest of Argentine corn, with prices considerably higher than the price contracted between Washington and Moscow before the crisis, will all end up in Soviet silos.

The sources also indicated that the Soviet Union avoided the purchase of corn immediately after the U.S. embargo, but that it has submitted purchase orders in the last few weeks.

The president of the National Grain Board, David Lacroze, has refused to comment on this report.

ECUADOR

OFFICIAL ANALYZES CAUSES OF BOGOTA EMBASSY OCCUPATION

PA292131 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Here is the spokesman at the presidential palace [presumably Secretary General of Public Information Fausto Molina] commenting on the situation at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota: [Begin recording] [Spokesman] Our country's foreign policy is very clear. Our country has expressed, ever since the present government took office, its support for the traditional principles of nonintervention, free self-determination of peoples, broad relations with states throughout the world, and reciprocal benefits in international relations. Ecuador believes that internal violence in some Latin American countries is to some extent an extension of institutionalized violence in society. In other words, the eradication of formal violence--which is an effect--must be understood from the viewpoint of the violence--which is a cause--that exists in our society.

[Question by unidentified person] Mr Secretary General, do you believe in the hypothetical possibility that this violence might erupt in our country?

[Answer] I do not believe so. Only in societies where injustice is fully institutionalized and where the possibilities for a democratic solution to injustice are not available to the people does one see these eruptions of violence--apart from the fact that there are types of violence which are generated by external factors that exert influence in those countries. I regret incidents of this kind in view of all the causes that might be involved. At the same time, I regret the fact that tragic circumstances like this--which are no longer isolated incidents because they are almost duplicates of events which have taken place in other Latin American countries--tend to make the maintenance of democracy more difficult in the entire area. [end recording]

PERU

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM

PA252319 Paris AFP in Spanish 1626 GMT 25 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Lima, 25 Feb (AFP)--The Peruvian military government has started a public investment program to create 300,000 jobs this year, Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva Ruete reported here today.

In noting that unemployment is the country's chief problem, the minister told the newspaper EL COMERCIO that he is negotiating new loans to finance development programs. In replying to those who criticize the contracting of more foreign debts when the military government is about to come to an end, he affirmed that the government must rule until the last day of its term and take advantage of the opening of international banks without fearing politicians.

Peru's foreign debt amounts to a little over $8 billion. Another $1.2 billion must be added to this amount. The minister obtained this figure during a recent tour of Europe, Canada and the United States. He also explained that the negative effect of the credits will not affect the next civilian regime because it will have to pay nothing on them since they were obtained with 5- and 10-year grace periods.

He said the free play between supply and demand stopped inflation and, for this reason, the government was forced to increase the list of products subject to price control last week.

Finally, he said he feels the salaries of military officers should be published in order to stop criticism as long as the respective salaries in private enterprise are also published because, he said, even the municipal employees in charge of public sanitation earn more than ministry officials.

Further Remarks

PY252022 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 80 PY

[Text] The economy and finance minister has stated that the government views unemployment as the main problem and has launched a program of public investment which will open up 600,000 jobs this year. He also stated that the free market economy has been unable to curb inflation, and that the government has been forced to apply price control regulations to more products in order to defend consumers from speculation, which does not confine itself to foodstuffs but also affects both domestic and foreign industrial products.

Minister Silva denied that the program for economic recovery has been reformulated and that new goals have been set. On the contrary, he stated that the program is being carried out on schedule. Minister Silva said that the recent economic measures seemed out of context, but they were part of the program which had been made public. He stated that people do not bother to read and analyze.

SURINAME

FORMER PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY SURRENDERS

Other Ministers Surrender

WA291635 London REUTER in English 1517 GMT 29 Feb 80 WA

[Text] The Hague, the Netherlands, Feb 29, REUTER--Suriname Prime Minister Henck Arron has surrendered to the National Military Council set up by army rebels who seized power in the South American country on Monday, the SURINAME NEWS AGENCY said today. The agency, quoting a Council announcement, said four other ministers also gave themselves up to the Council last night with Mr Arron, who had been in hiding since the coup.

The Dutch news agency, ANP, correspondent in Paramaribo quoted Military Council member Lieutenant Michel van Rey as saying elections called by Mr Arron for March 27 will almost certainly not be held. "We would like them to take place, but do not see how it would be possible," he said. He said the Council did not intend to compel people to stay in Suriname, which gained independence from the Netherlands in November, 1975. But he felt Surinamese people should be convinced their place was in Suriname and not in the Netherlands, where some 170,000 Surinamese now live. He said the Council would release its prisoners today, adding: "It's an awful thing having political prisoners here in Suriname."

Official Spokesman Comments

PA011504 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0839 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpt] Paramaribo, 1 Mar (LATIN-REUTER)--A spokesman for the new authorities said today that Henck Arron, the overthrown prime minister of Suriname, turned himself in to the rebels who staged a coup d'etat here on Monday after receiving guarantees that his life is not in danger.

The spokesman said that at least seven persons were killed during the uprising after which junior army officers established an eight-member National Military Council [CMN] to temporarily guide the destiny of this former Netherlands colony.

He said that other top officials of the Arron administration have been arrested including Finance Minister Lesley Goede, Justice and Police Minister Soerdispersad Badrising and Attorney General Maurits de Nranda, who was injured during the coup.

The spokesman added that the new authorities agreed to guarantee Arron's safety after the Committee of Christian Churches of Suriname interceded on his behalf.

The SURINAME NEWS AGENCY said during a radio broadcast monitored in The Hague early this morning that, in addition to Arron, four former ministers had turned themselves in to the rebels on Thursday night. The spokesman for the rebels said that several individuals who had been police officials in the Arron administration had been arrested and replaced.

The CMN appeared to be fully in control of the situation here although strict security measures are being maintained and the borders with Guyana and French Guiana are being constantly patrolled. Life returns to normal in the capital during the day, but at nightfall the streets are deserted because of the curfew imposed from 1900 to 0600.

Lieutenant van Rey, a member of the Council, told the SURINAME NEWS AGENCY that the rebels have "deep democratic sentiments" because they received their military training in the Netherlands, which granted independence to Suriname in November, 1975. However, Van Rey said it is almost certain that the general elections scheduled by Arron for 27 March will not be held.

The spokesman said that after coming to power the new authorities began talks with the representatives of several governments including the United States, Brazil, Guyana, South Korea and the Netherlands.

Kingston: Arron Arrested

FL291854 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 29 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Suriname's new military rulers today arrested former Prime Minister Henck Arron and said he would be put on trial for crimes committed while in power. Mr Arron was taken from a friend's home in the Surinamese capital, Paramaribo, after evading the military searchers for 5 days since his government was toppled in a violent takeover shortly before dawn last Monday.

Spokesmen for the eight-member Military Council said the capture of Mr Arron brings to six the number of ministers now in custody. There were 15 ministers in the old Cabinet. Some are understood to have fled the country.

AFP: CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT EXPECTED BY 8 MARCH

PA012242 Paris AFP in English 2144 GMT 1 Mar 80 PA

[Text] St Laurent du Maroni, French Guiana, 1 Mar (AFP)--The sergeants who overthrew the government in neighboring Suriname last February 25 are expected to set up a civilian government between next Wednesday and the end of next week but will remain in ultimate control. The most likely candidate for premier is former Economic Affairs Minister Eddy Bruma. Only after the formation of the Cabinet will the new regime's economic plans become clearer.

Former Premier Henck Arron, who gave himself up to the new (?authorities), reportedly remains free although under surveillance at the home of friends, his only house having been pillaged. Other members of the overthrown government were thought likely to be called in as technical experts or advisers by their successors.

Suriname's figurehead president, Dr J.H.E. Ferrier, 70, is expected to retire because of his age.

URUGUAY

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER EMBASSY INCIDENT IN BOGOTA

PY281228 Paris AFP in Spanish 1132 GMT 28 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 28 Feb (AFP)--The Uruguayan Government, through Foreign Minister Adolfo Folle, has conveyed to the Colombian Government its concern over the takeover of the Dominican Republic Embassy in Bogota by subversives who are holding 15 diplomats hostage. Foreign Minister Folle also informed Colombian Ambassador Osvaldo Rengifo Otero that Uruguayan officials have reiterated their confidence that the Colombian Government will take the necessary measures for a successful solution.

First reports received in Montevideo indicate that, during the embassy takeover, one person was killed and several wounded, including the Uruguayan ambassador and the Paraguayan charge d'affaires. Foreign Minister Folle said, however, that as of this morning there was no official confirmation that Uruguayan Ambassador Fernando Gomez Fink had been wounded, and that this was reported by the Uruguayan military attache in Colombia.

VENEZUELA

PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON DOMINICAN EMBASSY OCCUPATION

PA021601 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1502 GMT 2 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Porlamar, Venezuela, 2 Mar (LATIN)--In referring to the occupation of the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins has affirmed that there are "tremendous expectations [expectativas] for the future because of the attacks against the right to asylum."

"A principle of civilizations is being seriously affected," the chief of state said in a news conference held at the Santiago Marino International Airport on Margarita Island, 700 km northeast of Caracas. Herrera said that the seriousness of the matter not only stems from the fact that it is an attack against a group of persons, whether they are diplomats or not, but because it is an attack "against a respectable institution such as the right to asylum which originated and developed in our Latin American Continent."

Virgilio Lovera, Venezuelan ambassador in Bogota, is one of the hostages being kept at the Dominican Embassy since Wednesday by a guerrilla group of the 19 April Movement.

Herrera resumed his comment on the situation by quoting a phrase which he attributed to a British minister: "I warn you that if the matter calls for us to join the law of the jungle, there are some in the jungle who are stronger than us."